

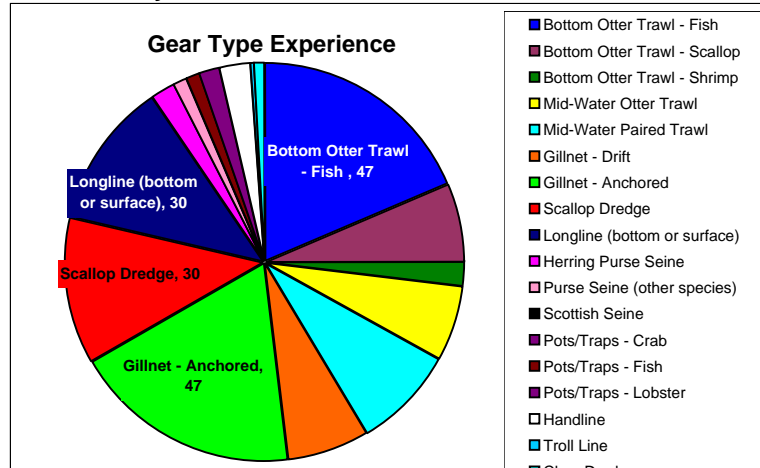
Northeast Fisheries Observer Program Safety Questionnaire *Results*

updated: 7/10/2006

47 surveys of 46 observers ranging in observing experience from 5 months to 15 years, averaging
2yrs 4months

2. Please indicate (✓) which types of vessels you have worked on as a NEFOP observer:

Bottom Otter Trawl - Fish	47
Bottom Otter Trawl - Scallop	16
Bottom Otter Trawl - Shrimp	5
Mid-Water Otter Trawl	15
Mid-Water Paired Trawl	21
Gillnet - Drift	17
Gillnet - Anchored	47
Scallop Dredge	30
Longline (bottom or surface)	30
Herring Purse Seine	5
Purse Seine (other species)	3
Scottish Seine	0
Pots/Traps - Crab	0
Pots/Traps - Fish	3
Pots/Traps - Lobster	4
Handline	6
Troll Line	1
Clam Dredge	2



3. Have you ever had difficulty completing the Pre-Trip Vessel Safety Checklist?

No 24
Yes 24

- 16 Insufficient time to complete checklist prior to departure
- 8 Safety equipment inaccessible (darkness included)
- 6 Lacked cooperation from captain and/or crew
- 4 Could not determine which was appropriate "Yes", "No", "Not Required" for certain items on the checklist
- 1 Unable to locate safety equipment
- Other - please describe:
- 1 Language barriers.

4. Have you ever encountered a situation(s) where you felt that your safety was compromised?

No 10
Yes 38

- 33 Weather related
- 26 Actions of captain and/or crew (including inattention of operator)
- 14 Fatigue
- 13 Lack of adequate work space on deck
- 12 Condition of vessel
- 5 Gear location or configuration
- 3 Sampling protocols
- Other - please describe
- 3 Gear Conflict
- 1 Engine problems

5. Have you ever had a “close call” and/or narrowly avoided harm or injury?

No 22
Yes 25

8 Weather
8 Weather and gear
3 Weather and Multiple boats
5 Inattention of operator
4 Slip/Fall
4 Weather and stability
3 Rigging failure
3 Engine
2 Back Problems
1 Fire

6. Have you ever sustained injuries during your work as an observer?

No 29
Yes 19

13 Cuts and bruises
5 Back injury
4 Puncture fish/debris
1 Skin Rash/infection
1 Debris in eye
1 Frostbite

7. Did you report these injuries?

No 10
Yes 9

8. Do you wear a PFD? (15 questionnaires were completed before this question was added)

No 11
Yes 9
Bad weather only 11

9. Have you ever deployed on a vessel that you felt was unsafe?

No 33
Yes 15

5 Poor maintenance
3 Mechanical
3 Stability
2 For the money
2 Structural integrity
1 Vessel used beyond capabilities
1 Captain and/or Crew

10. What kinds of contingency plans do you make for emergencies?

Plan egress 29
Locate safety equip 23
Plan with captain 3
None 2

Do you always know what your role will be in an emergency?

Yes 19
no 16
Report to muster station 4
No assignment 2
Notify coastguard 1
Save myself 1

11. What aspect of your job do you consider to be the most dangerous or unsafe?

Some answers involve multiple options(i.e. "working on deck in rough weather")

Weather	28
Actions of captain or crew	15
Working on deck	9
Boarding vessel	5
Driving when fatigued.	6
Integrity of vessel/gear	4
Nighttime operations	3
Collision	1
The Unknown	1
Being at sea	1
Vessel used beyond capabilities	1

SUGGESTIONS/ REOCCURRING ISSUES

- 1)Dealing with fatigue/ inattention of captains and crew in terms of not watching wheelhouse properly.
- 2) Release mechanisms for life rafts
- 3) Protocols for getting out of a dangerous situation mid trip.
- 4) Training for dealing with situations where safety equipment can't be accessed before trip.
- 5) Advanced first aid training, instances where medical help is not available.
- 6) Small gillnet boats going too far out and getting caught in bad weather.